巨虫列島 3

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原作 藤見泰高

漫画 REDICE

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巨虫列島

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原作 藤見泰高

漫画 REDICE

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※この作品はフィクションです。
実在の個人・団体・事件等には
一切関係ありません。

前巻まで

修学旅行中に旅客機が墜落し、孤島に漂着した女子高生・織部睦美。
クラスメイトと共に巨大昆虫の巣窟と化した島で、持ち前の昆虫知識を活かしてサバイバルすることになるが、教師の中城茉莉華が率いるグループと合流。
睦美が提案する安全な避難場所を求めて移動を開始するが……!?

CHAPTER 9: NIGHT ATTACK - PART 1

SFX: FLICKER X2

SFX: RUSTLE X4

SFX: FLICKER X2

SFX: THUD THUD

SFX: THUD X2 PULL X3

SFX: PULL X3

THIS IS BAD...

SFX: STOP

SFX: SLIP
ズゥゥゥ

SFX: GASP

4

SFX: SLIP

ｳｳｯ

ﾊｯ!

MMM! MMM MM!!

...MUT-SUMI?

SFX: THUMP

WHAT WERE YOU DOING RUBBING YOUR FINGERS TOGETHER? ARE YOU FRUSTRATED ?

SFX: WHOOSH

I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

MMMM! MMMM MM!!

YOU SAY SOMETHING, MUTSUMI?

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: TEAR

OH MY?

MAYBE YOU LIKE IT ROUGH ...

SFX: YANK

!!?

I HOPE SO.

SFX: THUMP

MMM!!

NO NEED TO STRUGGLE !

SFX: WHAP

CHI-TOSE... HELP!!

!!

IF SHE DIDN'T MOVE WITH THE GROUP, THEN SHE'LL BE LEFT BEHIND.

TEACHER! GIVEN THAT MUTSUMI'S FALLEN BEHIND, COULD YOU WAIT A MINUTE !!?

COME TO THINK OF IT, USUI ISN'T HERE, EITHER.

WH... WHAT ?

THAT CREEP MUST HAVE RUN OFF AGAIN!

SFX: SLURP SLURP SLURP

IT'S HOPELESS... HE'S TOO STRONG...

SFX: HAA HAA HAA

I CAN'T... RESIST...

SFX TWITCH

SFX PIERCE

ALL RIGHT, COMMUNICATION OF THE MIND AND BODY.

SFX PULL

MMMM MMMM MMM !!!!

WELL THEN, LET'S GET STARTED, SHALL WE?

GWH!! WHO WAS THAT!?

SFX: WHOOSH

S... SORRY!

DID YOU WANT TO JOIN IN, TOO, CLASS REP?

WHAT ELSE YOU GOT TO SAY, KOPE KUN!!?

SERVES YOU RIGHT!

HAA

HAA

HAA

MUT-SUMI! ARE YOU OKAY!?

HMPH. I'M WATCHING YOU...

SFX DRUM TAP TAP

SFX PTOOEY

SFX KUB KUB OE:S

HAA

CHI-TOSE...

HAA

I HAVE TO INFORM THE TEACHER NOW!

RATHER THAN WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM.

SFX: GLARE

HAA

THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU...

HAA

HAA

TEACH-ER.

TEACH-ER.

THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'VE CAUSED THE TEACHER!!

!?

SFX: SLAP

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU AND USUI DOING IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS !!?

MUTSUMI'S THE VICTIM HERE, YOU KNOW!!

SFX: TUG

.....

.....!!

NOW NOW, AOYAMA.

WE NEED HER TO PROTECT GROUP COLLECTIVITY, NOT TO LEAVE AND BECOME A VILLAIN.

DON'T LISTEN TO HER, TEACHER !!

DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THE CLASS REP IS TRYING TO DO?

BUT MUT-SUMI WAS!

TEACHER!! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO MOVE NOW!!

WE NEED TO LOOK FOR A PLACE THAT WILL ENSURE OUR SAFETY IMMEDIATELY.

THEREFORE, I SUGGEST THAT WE EVACUATE!!

ぴっぴっぴっ

ザワッ

EEE EEE EK!

HOW DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR SAFETY?

IT CERTAINLY MAY BE NOT. BUT.

THE HUMIDITY HAS ROSE FAR GREATER THAN I HAD EXPECTED.

I... I'VE CHECKED IT MANY TIMES, BUT,

SO...?

HUNTERS RUB THEIR FINGERS TOGETHER TO SENSE THE HUMIDITY THROUGH THE FEELING OF FRICTION.

MEANING THAT MOST INSECTS WILL SEE IT AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT...

HOWEVER, WHILE THERE IS A REGIONAL DIFFERENCE, AS FLYING BEETLES FLY IN THE SKY, HIND LEG INSECTS ALSO RUN AROUND IN SEARCH OF FOOD DUE TO THE SL TABLE HUMIDITY..

THE CURRENT HUMIDITY IS 60~70%.

WHA... WHAT'S A HIND LEG INSECT ?

ARE YOU SERIOUS —

*IF TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY ARE NOT APPROPR ATE, THEN MOST NOCTURNAL INSECTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ACT VE.

BUT, THAT ALSO MEANS NOW IS THE WORST KIND OF ENVIRONMENT FOR US, TOO.

SFX:
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

GROUND BEETLES AND LONG-LEGGED CENTIPEDES... WHO MOVE FAST AND HAVE GREEDY EATING HABITS.

IF THEY HAVE BECOME GIGANTIC, THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

WHAT !?

EVEN SO, YOU DID SUGGEST US TO MOVE, DIDN'T YOU, ORIBE?

A THREAT MORE TROUBLE-SOME THAN DAYTIME LARVA?

AND WE LOST WHAT LITTLE STRENGTH WE HAD COMING HERE FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUC-TIONS, RIGHT?

TO THE PRIVATE HOUSE FROM A LITTLE WHILE AGO?

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK

IF YOU WANT US TO MOVE FASTER, THEN LET US BLOW OUT THESE DIM TORCHES !!

BUT... BUT, IF WE DON'T FIND SHELTER SOON, THEN...

USING A FLASHLIGHT FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WOULD BE POINTLESS! THE INSECTS WOULD SWARM, YOU KNOW!?

HEY, YOU DO HAVE A FLASHLIGHT, DON'T YOU ?

SFX: FLINCH

THAT'S BECAUSE MOST OTHER INSECTS DON'T GATHER NEAR THE "GARDEN TIGER MOTH".

IF IT IS LIKE THE SAYING "LIKE A MOTH FLYING INTO THE FLAME", THEN SHOULDN'T THESE TORCHES BE DOING THE SAME THING?

(AS) THE SAYING GOES, THE "INSECT (OF SUMMER" IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE ARCTIA CAJA. IT HAS A VERY STRONG PHOTOTAXIS FORCING IT TO GATHER AT LIGHTS SUCH AS TORCHES CAUSING IT TO BE EVENTUALLY SWALLOWED UP IN AN ASCENDING CURRENT OF AIR TO BE BURNT TO DEATH BY THE FLAMES.

GARDEN TIGER MOTH (ARCTIA CAJA) A POISONOUS INSECT ORDER: LEPIDOPTERA FAMILY: ARCTIIDAE SUBFAMILY: TIGER MOTH

AUTSUAN GAVE ADVICE FROM HER OWN KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

◆THE MEMBERS CONFLICT INTENSIFIES!!

SFX: WHAP

CHAPTER 9: NIGHT ATTACK - PART 2

TEACHER, LET'S MOVE AHEAD WITH JUST OUR-SELVES!!

SO WE'VE BEEN PUSHED INTO A CORNER AS A RESULT?

WE BELIEVE MUT-SUMI!

SFX: WHAP

DISOBEDI-ENCE WITHIN THE GROUP IS NOT ALLOWED!

COME ON, CAN'T WE JUST GET MOVING ALREADY ?

MY 1ST CD SOLD ONE MILLION COPIES. IF YOU BUY IT, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

HEY, HEY, WANNA DATE WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE CITY?

.....

SFX: SHOOM

SFX HMPH

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

WH... WHAT'S THAT?

SFX BROOM

SFX DASH

TEACHER, WHAT'S THAT LIGHT !!?

HEY, HEY, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM ?

IT COULD BE OTHER SURVI-VORS!

SFX: SHINE

SFX: SHOOM, SLIP

DON'T! RUN AWAY!

SFX: TWIST SHINE

SFX: BWOOM

SFX: THUMP

HE-!
HELP
!!!

ギッ

パッ

バッ

ギッ

バッ

バキッ

ピタッ

ピタッ

ピタッ

U-!

SFX:
DRIP X3

SFX:
SNIP

ドクッ

ドクッ

SFX:
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

SFX:
WHOOSH

SFX: GULP

WHAAA? I'M GOING TO DIE ...?

SFX: FSSHHH

SFX: TW TCH SHING X5

THEY MUST FIRST FIND THEIR PREY'S WEAK POINT...

IN THE SAME WAY A PACK OF CARNIVO-ROUS ANI-MALS WOULD ATTACK A HERBIVORE,

I...

AND IF YOU WENT NOW, YOU'D ONLY BE GIVING THE LARVAE MORE FOOD!!

CAPTAIN, YOU MUSTN'T! THEY'VE BITTEN HIS CAROTID ARTERY! HE CAN'T BE SAVED ANYMORE!

DAMN IT!

SFX: GLEAM

SFX: BWOOM

SFX: SHINE SHINE SHINE

SFX: STAB X3

A-AAA AH!

SFX: SHINE X3

WHAT THE HELL!? HOW MANY OF 'EM ARE THERE ...?

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

CALM DOWN! YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH EVERY-ONE!!

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

RUN AWAY !!

SFX: DASH

SFX: DASH

NO OOOO !!!

AH HH HH

SFX: DASH

T... TEACHER !?

WAIT, PLEASE !

THIS WAY !!

EVERY-ONE, GATHER AROUND, PLEASE !!

WE MUSTN'T SPLIT APART!

SFX: FWWSHHH

THEY'RE FIREFLY LARVA!

MUTSUMI, WHAT ARE THESE THINGS !?

SFX: SHAKE SHAKE

SFX: FALL TW ST SH NE X2

SFX: SQLEEZE SHINE

WHAT KIND ARE THEY? AREN'T FIREFLY LARVA MEANT TO LIVE IN CLEAR STREAMS?

NO OO O!

ギュバッ

THERE ARE TREES OVERHEAD, SO PLEASE GATHER BACK TO BACK AND DO NOT MOVE FROM THIS SPOT !!

ギュバッ

THE KIND OF FIREFLY LARVAE THAT LIVE UNDERWATER ARE THE RAREST !!

MOST JAPANESE PEOPLE THINK SO, BUT,

IN JAPAN, THE FIREFLY IS FAMOUS SIMPLY BECAUSE THE IMAGE OF A CLEAR STREAM INSECT ALWAYS COMES TO MIND FIRST.

HOWEVER, IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE MANY MORE KINDS OF LAND-BASED LIFE THAN JUST THAT. THAT IS WHY THE LUCIOLA PARVULA IS FAMOUS AS A LAND-DWELLING FIREFLY IN JAPAN

WHEN IT BECOMES AN ADULT, IT CEASES TO EAT FOOD ON THE BEHALF OF THE MANY CARNIVOROUS TYPES AT LARVA AGE.

FURTHER MORE, IT EMITS LIGHT AT EGG, LARVA, ADULT AND ALL OTHER STAGES.

Lampyridae (Firefly)
Order: Coleoptera
Family: Lampyridae
Unidentified Subspecies

SFX
WHOL

SFX SLOSH

SFX BUSTLE

AH!

HIYA

!!

SFX
13 SLAM

SFX
CRK C

NO
OO
OO

SFX
WHACK

FIREFLY LARVA ARE COVERED WITH A SORT OF ARMOR ACROSS THEIR ENTIRE BODY. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAB THEM LIKE THE TIGER BEETLE LARVAE USING A BAMBOO SWORD.

SFX
SCREECH

WHY WON'T IT CUT !?

SFX
WOOSH

SFX
THUD

YOU'LL HAVE TO FLIP THEIR BODIES OVER AND STAB THEM AT THE BASE OF THEIR LEGS.

SFX
WHOOSH

*THE CONTENTS OF THE POISON BOTTLE IS ETHYL ACETATE. IT IS USED IN INSECT-COLLECTING.

EE EE EE EK

WE'RE IN TROUBLE !

SFX· THUD WHACK WHACK THUD

SFX POP

SFX· HOLDS BREATH

WHAT IS THAT IRRITATING SMELL?

PLEASE, GATHER A LITTLE CLOSER !!

SFX· PLOP

IT'S TO MAKE A BARRIER !!

*ETHYL ACETATE THAT I BROUGHT FROM THE MEDICAL FACILITY.

SFX· TWIST SHINE

SFX:
FLINCH
FLINCH
RUN
RUN

SFX:
SILENCE

IF YOU MOVE ON YOUR OWN, YOU'LL BE IN DANGER!

EVERY-ONE, PLEASE, COME BACK!

THAT'S FUNNY ...

THE NUMBER OF FIREFLY LUMINESCENCE AROUND OUR CIRCUMFERENCE HAS DECREASED.

!!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY'VE ALSO STOPPED ATTACKING US...

SEEM TO HAVE MOVED TO FOCUS THEIR ATTACK ON MAMI AND THE OTHERS !!

RATHER THAN US, THE FIREFLIES AT THE BARRIER

THERE'S NO WAY THERE ABILITIES COULD BE THAT ADVANCED.

FIREFLIES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO COMMUNICATE BY LIGHT SINCE THE OLD DAYS, BUT...

INSECTS CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT !?

ONLY AFTER WE'VE BEEN PUT IN A POSITION TO BE HUNTED, WILL WE UNDERSTAND TRUE HORROR.

BECAUSE WHILE OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARE INFERIOR TO THE FIREFLY'S, WE CANNOT ESCAPE...

WE'LL BE ANNIHILATED AS IT IS...

◆ THE FIREFLIES ATTACK THE SCATTERED TEAMS!

CHAPTER 10: ESCAPE - PART 1

TO CHASE AFTER THE SMALLEST MAMI SINCE SHE'LL BE EASY PREY...

IT SEEMS THAT THE FIREFLY LARVAE QUICKLY LEFT OUR AREA...

DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO STUPID! WE HAVE TO SURVIVE TOGETHER !!

THOSE MEMBERS WOULD JUST GET US INTO MORE TROUBLE.

WE COULD JUST RUN AWAY, RIGHT?

ISN'T THIS OUR CHANCE?

YOU'RE DELIBERATELY PUTTING US IN DANGER DUE TO YOUR OWN SHEER STUPIDITY!

HE'S RIGHT.

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GO?

IF YOU WANT TO DIE, I WON'T STOP YOU, BUT,

IT'S SUICIDE, YOU KNOW THAT?

ANYWAY, WE ARE CHASING AFTER THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS!

SFX: SCREECH

THEN WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

IF WE'RE GOING TO MOVE, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO COUNTERMEASURES TO STOP THEM FROM HUNTING US.

I'LL NEVER GO!!

I'M NOT GOING!

WE COULD ESCAPE,

YOU'RE RIGHT...

BUT IT'S POINTLESS, CLASS REP. WE HAVE TO ESCAPE.

WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE THEY RELIED ON HAVE DISAPPEARED...

BUT I'M A PERSON WHO WOULD RATHER SAVE SOMEONE THAN ESCAPE

DAMN IT...

HAND IT OVER.

N... NO.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MORE?

WHAT!? IS THIS IT...

CRAP!

TEACHER! HURRY!! THIS WAY!!!

SFX: HAHA HAHA

SFX: WHRP

ハッハッハッ

WHAT ABOUT THE TEACH-ER...

NOT COM NG.

HMM?

K... KAI?

ARE YOU OKAY?

DOES ANYONE HERE KNOW WHO IT WAS !!?

I FOUND THIS IN THE BOY'S TOILETS THIS MORNING !

THE NEXT DAY

TEACHER, I SAW KAI SMOKING.

IT WASN'T ME.

SFX: CLATTER

I THINK IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR AN INSPECTION !

I SAW HIM, TOO.

.....

SFX: FLINCH

ビクッ

HEY... TELL 'EM!

KAI! COME TO THE STAFF ROOM AFTER-WARD!!!

I'VE BEEN SET UP...

KAI! HURRY!

IF YOU DON'T MOVE, YOU'LL BE LEFT BEHIND...

ｶﾞｼｬ

ｶﾞｼｬ

ｶﾞｼｬ

SFX: RUSTLE RATTLE RATTLE

DID YOU COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF COUNTER-MEASURE !?

AH... I KNOW !!

SFX: CONFUSED

...HEY.

CHITOSE, WAIT!!

BUT...

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE DASH

WELL THEN, LET'S GO!

THEY SEEM TO HUNT PEOPLE WHO ARE ALONE.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT MUTSUMI SAID?

I'M NOT MOVING !

...WHAT

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

SFX: FWWSHHH

TEACHER, IT'S HOPE-LESS.

THE FIREFLIES WILL CATCH UP TO US.

IF WE CAN THINK CALMLY, I'M SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HOPE.

WE'LL BE FINE... CALM DOWN.

TEACH-
ER!

IT'S LIKE
YOU SAID,
TEACHER!
HOPE!!

IT'S

SFX: KER-CHAK KER-CHAK

!!

SFX: WHOOSH KER-CHAK

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE THWACK

IT'S THE SAME OVER HERE!!

SFX: THUD THUD

TEACHER! THE LOCK'S BROKEN!

SFX PULL GRIP

GRAB A TWIG OR ANYTHING SIMILAR AND JAM IT INTO THE CORNER OF THE WINDOW FRAME.

AND DO IT CARE-FULLY SO THAT THE INSECTS WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN..

SFX: CLENCH

WE'LL BE FINE.

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN THAT LEANING A STICK AND LOCKING THE DOOR WORKS QUITE WELL ON TV; BUT WHEN A WINDOW SHAKES DUE TO A STORM, IT MIGHT COME OFF BECAUSE OF THE VIBRATION.

RIGHT!

NOW, AFTER THAT, PLACE SOME BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR TO REINFORCE IT.

MAMI... ARE YOU OKAY?

HAA

HAA

NAA

YOU'LL PROTECT ME, RIGHT ?

NAA

WHY ARE THEY CHASING ONLY AFTER ME...

SFX: GLANCE

LOOK, A SHACK! WE'RE SAVED!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

IT WON'T OPEN!?

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

THAT IS AN UNDESIRABLE ACQUISITION.

PLEASE OPEN UP

AND YOU PERSONALLY LET US IN!!

STOP IT! YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN HERE.

WE DON'T WANT A SINGLE INFECTED TO GET IN, SO WE REINFORCED THE DOOR UNTIL NOW.

AND BREAKING THE REINFORCEMENT AND ALLOWING YOU INSIDE WOULD BE SUICIDE.

HOW!? HOW!!?

WE CAN EASILY REPAIR THE REINFORCE-MENT! PLEASE !!

FURTHER-MORE, I CANNOT JEOPARDIZE THE TEACHER LEADING RIGHT NOW.

SUZUKI-SAN, WHAT YOU ARE FEELING NOW IS HUMAN WEAKNESS...

TEACHER... WE HAVE TO LET THEM IN.

SFX: SLIP

WHAT AOYAMA SAID IS RIGHT.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION... SO IT IS LEGALLY PERMITTED.

SFX: FLINCH

IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA TO LET OTHER PEOPLE IN AND DISTURB THE PEACE, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

HOWEVER, WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A STRONG SOLIDARITY FROM US ALL.

SFX: TWIST SHINE X2

SFX: THUD THUD

LET US IN! LET US IN!!

THE INSECTS ARE COMING THIS WAY! PLEASE, LET US IN!

!!

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE TEACHER?

THERE'S NO MERIT IN RUNNING THE RISK IN LETTING YOU IN...

AH...

STOP TALKING.

SFX SLUMP

AND I CAN ALSO ACT!

I-! I CAN SING, I CAN SING!

SFX: THUD

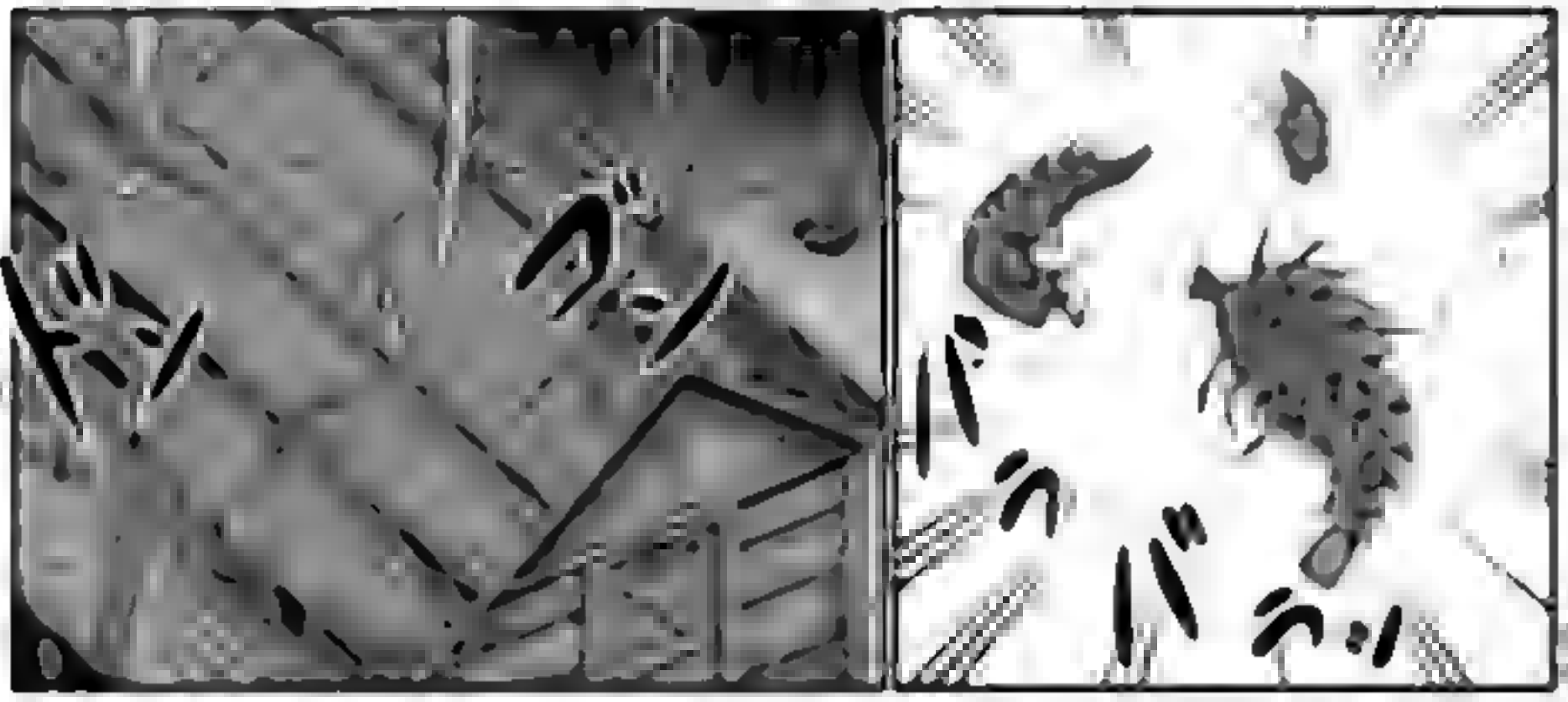
LET'S GO !!!

NO ESCAPE FOR THE CAPTAIN AND MAMI!!

IT'S POINT-LESS! WE HAVE TO RUN!

SFX VSSSHH TWIST SHINE X2

CHAPTER 10: ESCAPE - PART 2



SO DON'T GIVE UP!!

HAA

HAA

AND THEN WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE CITY, WE'LL GO SEE A MOVIE TOGETHER AND EAT ICE CREAM...

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

2

SFX: BWOOM

GIVE UP ALREADY.

HAA

HAA

HEY, DON'T YOU KNOW WHICH WAY THEY WENT?

THAT WAY!

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX
RUSTLE

OVER HERE!

SFX
ZOOM

THAT WHEN A PERSON IS CHASED BY SOMETHING AND ESCAPES DESPERATELY, THE DATA SAYS THAT THERE'S A PROBABILITY OF MORE THAN 70% THAT THEY WILL UNCONSCIOUSLY TURN LEFT.

IT'S BASIC KNOWLEDGE WHEN YOU ENTER THE MOUNTAINS!

AND HEAD IN THE DIRECTION WHERE THERE IS NO WEB.

SO WE NEED TO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF THREAD FROM BUTTERFLY SPIDERS AND CATERPILLARS STUCK TO THE ANIMAL TRAIL...

YES!

BUT THAT IS JUST 70%, RIGHT?

I KNEW STICKING WITH MUTSUMI WAS THE RIGHT IDEA.

HOWEVER, USUALLY WHEN A NEST

HEAD IN THE DIRECTION

ERE

I'M A TREE! AND TREE'S AREN'T MEANT TO TALK!

SHUT UP!

KAMIJO... AREN'T YOU SHAKING WITH FEAR?

TCH...

I REALLY DON'T WANNA FIGHT THOSE BUGS.

YOU GUYS BETTER HURRY UP.

EVEN IF I WERE TEMPTED TO ESCAPE WITH YOU, WE WOULD FAIL, RIGHT...

IT'S BUG GIRL...

SFX: VSSSHHH

WAIT A MINUTE !!

AH!

SHE WENT THAT WAY! I'M SURE OF IT!!

SFX: SKREE

SFX:

SFX: BWOOM BWOOM

.....

WHAT DID SHE SAY? I DIDN'T HEAR, BUT ROGER THAT!!

GOT IT.

CHITOSE, KAI,

PLEASE [illegible] WEAPON AND USE IT TO INTIMIDATE AND SURPRISE THE FIREFLY LARVAE.

THEIR NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED !

TAKE THAT!

SUCH USELESS THINGS

WHAT MEANING DO THEY HAVE?

HMM

HMM

!!!

WH... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING!?

ARE YOU ALL OKAY? YOU'RE NOT PREGNANT OR ANYTHING ARE YOU?

YOU'RE SAFE, RIGHT?

WE CAME TO HELP SINCE WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU GUYS.

SFX: SHINE SHINE SHINE

SFX: SLAP

WE'LL BE ALRIGHT IF WE BELIEVE MUTSUMI ABOUT THE INSECTS!

SFX JUMP JUMP

UH-HUH ♪

SFX SHINE

SFX SHINE

TATAP ♪

TAP ♫

YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF? WHAT IMPRU-DENCE!!

THAT'S NOT IT...

E.

TAPTAP... 1, 2, 3...

NO OO OO

TAKE THIS !!

OWW!

OWW!

WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE CITY TOGETHER !

DO YOU WANT TO DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

DAMN YOU!

KY AA !!

SFX: SLASH

IT'S HOPELESS...

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM...

MUT-SUMI, LOOK!

WH... WHAT'S THAT?

WE'RE GOING TO SAVE THEM.

HM... HM-A? DID YOU SAY?

WE'RE STILL GOING TO SAVE THEM, RIGHT?

PERHAPS, MAMI AND THE CAPTAIN ARE AT THE CENTER OF THAT LIGHT, BUT...

THEY CAME OVER HERE, TOO!

WA AA AA H!

WAS CLOWNS HERE A MISTAKE?

SFX: TWIST SHINE X3

EVERY-ONE. GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE WE CAN WIN THIS!

RHMMM

MUT-SUMI!

SFX: STAB

DO SOME-THING, WILL YA!?

UM-MUM.

FROM NOW ON, I'LL TALK TO THE FIREFLIES !!

I KNOW!

WHAT IS MUT-SUMI'S PLAN!?

CHAPTER 11: COMMUNICATION - PART 1

SFX
TWIST
SHINE

SFX
TWIST
SHINE

SO, PLEASE, HANG IN THERE JUST A WHILE LONGER !!

I HAVE TO COMMUNI-CATE WITH THE FIREFLY LARVAE!

TAP TAP...

WE NEED YOU TO TEACH US HOW TO KILL THEM QUICKER THAN THIS!!

HEY! YOU PARA-LYZED WITH FEAR OR SOME-THING !?

HYII !!

SFX: RUSTLE

SFX:

SFX:

HAA

HAA

SFX:

GET IT OFF! GET IT OFFF FF!!

IT'S HOPE-LESS! WE'RE NOT GOING TO SUR-VIVE!

MUT-SUMI! HURRY !

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

SFX: FWIP

I GET IT NOW!

TRIP TRIP... 1, 2, 3, TRIP...

TIP-TOP...

SFX: PAUSE

!!

EVERY-ONE, PLEASE, GATHER NEAR ME!!

SFX: CLICK

HYI
IIIII

MAMI!! OVER HERE!!

SFX HOOO

HAA

HAA

IT'S OKAY! I'LL PRO-TECT YOU!

HAA

!!

SFX TWIST SHINE

WHAAAAAAT!?

HOPELESS. THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM.

SFX: BRRR

SFX: GULP

...WHAT'S GOING ON?

SFX: BOOM

WHERE ARE YOU !!?

CAPTAIN!

CAPTAIN!

CAPTAIN!!?

MAM!! WE'RE SAFE NOW.

EVERY-ONE'S COMING.

MUT-SUMI !!!!

MUT-SUMI! MUT-SUMI!!! !!

THANK GOOD-NESS YOU'RE SAFE.

MUT-SUMI !!

CAP-TAIN!

WHAT HAPPENED !?

THE INSECTS ARE FRIGHT-ENED

RUN

SO NOW THE INSECTS ARE ALL "IN DANGER" AND WILL "BE CAREFUL".

FIREFLIES BLINKING LIGHTS

I COMMUNI-CATED WITH THE FIREFLY LARVAE USING THE LIGHT FROM THE FLASH-LIGHT.

SFX: FLICKER FLICKER

SO, AS SOON AS I FLASHED THE LIGHT, THE LIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES WAS BROKEN AND THEY BECAME FRIGHTENED.

TAP TAP...

1, 2, 3...

SFX: SHINE

SFX: PFFT

I USED THE R LANGUAGE TO INFORM THEM OF THIS DANGER.

SFX: FLICKER X2

SFX: SKUFF

SFX: NUDGE NUDGE

ゴソゴソ

YOU MEAN YOU CHASED THEM AWAY WITH LIGHT FROM A FLASHLIGHT ?

I'M SORRY, THOUGH.

I'LL TURN MINE ON, TOO!!

IT TOOK A WHILE TO DECIPHER S NCE THERE WAS A REGIONAL DIFFERENCE IN POPULATION TO THE F REFLY LANGUAGE.

SFX: CLICK CLICK

LED HAS PHOTOTAXIS, AND THAT'S SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE SEEN BY INSECTS. SO IF IT'S NOT A FILAMENT TYPE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE.

LED LIGHT WON'T HAVE THE SAME EFFECT!

THAT IS WHY WHEN A MALE ONE TURNS ON ITS LIGHTS IN A DIM MEADOW AT NIGHT WITHOUT ANY OUTDOOR LIGHTS OR EVEN THE MOON PRESENT, HIS FLIES BEGIN TO SHINE AT THE SPECIFIED LIGHT ALL AT ONCE!

AND WHEN OTHER FIREFLIES ARRIVE THE FIRST FLIGHT OF LAND-DWELLING FIREFLY LARVA, THEY START TO INTENSELY TO FASCINATE THEM

AS THE FEMALE CAN LURE LIGHT AT RED LIGHTS FLIGHT FIREFLY AND ALL STRANGE THE FEMALE COMMUNICATES WITH THE OPPOSITE THROUGH LIGHT TO SERVE THEIR OFFSPRING SO THAT THE CARNIVOROUS LARVA CAN EMIT LIGHTED LURE PREY AND HUNT IT AT NIGHT.

OH! MAY NOT JUST SHINE TOWARD THE UP NOTICED AT ALL

FURTHER-MORE, SINCE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNICATIONS, MANY FIREFLIES MAY NOT SHINE IN TIME FOR THE HAZARD.

THERE'S TOO MANY FIREFLIES FOR US TO HANDLE!

HMPH!

I'LL SHINE A LIGHT IN THE DIRECTION THE INSECTS ARE ATTACKING FROM!

SFX BAM

SFX: FLICKER

AND SOMEBODY ELSE SHINE A LIGHT AT THE OPPOSITE SIDE, TOO!

BUT, IF I WAVE THIS LIGHT AROUND, I WON'T BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICA-TIONS WITH THE INSECTS.

DAMN IT... THEY'RE GATHERING IN THE DIREC-TION WHERE THERE'S NO LIGHT BEING SHINED.

FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE DEFENCE AND CREATE A BARRIER.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE WHILE 'TILL DAY-BREAK.

KAI, PLEASE LIGHT UP THE DIRECTION WHERE WE CAME FROM WITH YOUR LIGHT.

MISUZU, MAMI, PLEASE GATHER IN THE CENTER OF THE CIRCLE I'M DRAWING!

I'M GOING TO SURVEY A LARGE NUMBER OF LOCATIONS AROUND THE BARRIER AND SCATTER ETHYL ACETATE.

LIGHT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MUTSUMI?

CHITOSE, LIGHT UP KAI'S OPPOSITE SIDE.

SFX: ZAP

YOU CAN'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, MUTSUMI!

AHHHH, GO! I'LL COVER YOU!

AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US WILL DIE HERE FIGHTING.

BUT... IF I DON'T DO IT, WE'LL ALL BE EXTERMI-NATED...

NO OO !

SFX:

SFX:

SFX: PFFT

WE'VE GOT ABOUT 10 MINUTES 'TILL IT VAPORIZES.

IF I DON'T USE IT WELL, IT'LL BE USED IT

KAI! YOU FIGHT, TOO!

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL OVER HERE.

KEEP AT IT, WE CAN REST LATER.

RATTLE

◆ WILL THEY SUCCEED THIS CRUSH!?

CHAPTER 11: COMMUNICATION - PART 2

SFX: TW ST SHINE

KAI!

.....

SFX: THUMP

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? ALL YOU'VE DONE IS BETRAY US SO FAR!

SFX: GRIN

IF I FLASH THEM IN RHYTHM LIKE BUG GIRL SAID, WE'LL BE FINE!

LET ME TAKE OVER FOR YOU!

SFX: TAP TAP TAP

WHEN JINNO MISUZU GETS BACKED AGAINST A WALL, SHE ALWAYS SHOWS HER GUTS!

IDIOT.

SO YOU HAVE NO REASON TO CONTINUE SHINING IT WITHOUT RUNN NG AWAY, R GHT!?

AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF FIREFLY LARVAE ARE ATTACKING THIS PLACE,

SFX: TWIST SHINE X2

CRAP, THEY'RE ABOVE!!

IF YOU GET KILLED, ORIBE, THEN NONE OF US WILL SURVIVE.

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

AH HH HH HH !!

SFX: SKID

SFX: CLICK CLICK

HAS EXCEED THE COMMUNICATION OF THE FIREFLIES!!

OUR COORDINATION...

NRRR

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

WE SURVIVED ?

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

WE SURVIVED, MINOWA! BE MORE HAPPY!!

EVERYONE... THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL SAFE...

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

IF YOU AND THE OTHER'S DIDN'T COME, MUTSUMI, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME FIREFLY CHOW.

THE SUN'S BEAUTIFUL ...

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.

!

DON'T GO! IT'S THE FIREFLIES LIGHT!

SFX: SHINE

SFX: SCATTER BAM

SFX: RUSTLE

MAMI !!

SFX: SHOVE

AGA GAA GAA !!!

SFX: BAM

CAPTAIN!

NO
OO
OO
OO

SFX
CRUNCH
WHAP

SFX
FSSHHH
FSSHHH

SFX
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

!!

SFX
SPLASH

SOME-BODY HELP THE CAP-TAIN !!!

SOME-BODY.

SFX: SPLASH

THE BLOOD MUST STOP_

THE BLOOD —

EVERY-ONE... I COULDN'T KEEP OUR PROMISE I'M SORRY.

NO

E...

NO

SFX: WHEEZE

DON'T TRY TO TALK AGAIN !!

SFX: COUGH COUGH

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? WE'RE ALL GOING HOME TOGETHER !!

SFX: WHAP

SFX: WHEEZE WHEEZE

!!

CAP-
TAIN!

CAP-
TAIN!

CAP-
TAIN!

I'M
SORRY
...

I SPOKE
ONLY SELF-
ISHNESS...
I'M SORRY.

CAP-TAIN...

I WANTED TO DO IT PROPERLY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

I'M SORRY.

SFX: THUD THUD

IT WAS FOOLISH TO SACRIFICE HERSELF.

YOU'RE ALL SAFE? THANK GOOD-NESS.

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM...

THOSE BITCHES...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND GET MOVING.

SFX: WHIRL

SFX: CRUNCH

IF YOU LET US INTO THE CABIN THEN, CAPTAIN WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE!

.....

IF THE TEACHER CAME ALONG WITH ME, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE.

SUZUKI AND I WERE SAVED THANKS TO THE TEACHER.

IF WE OPENED UP THE CABIN, WE WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN ANNIHI-LATED.

IT'S NONSENSE TO MAKE THAT OUR RESPONS-IBILITY.

I'M SORRY THAT MATSUOKA AND USUI DIED, BUT...

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE TEACHER, WE'D BE DEAD, TOO.

WE DID NOTHING WRONG.

THIS IS ORIBE'S RE-SPONSIBILITY BECAUSE SHE SUGGESTED THAT WE MOVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND YOU ONLY FELL INTO A PREDICAMENT BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANY TEAMWORK THIS TIME.

SO FROM NOW ON, LET US ALL ACT AS ONE WITH THE TEACHER.

THEN LET US SPEND THE REMA NING 1 DAY THERE.

IF THAT SAFETY ZONE IS REAL,

OBSERVE THE LIES BETWEEN FRIENDS, AND DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.

SFX: LEAN

I BELIEVE WE WILL ABSO-LUTELY BE SAFE THERE.

WE'LL REALLY BE SAFE, RIGHT?

◆ WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS WAITING AT THEIR DESTINATION!?

CHAPTER 12: CAPTURE - PART 1

YOU GUYS, WALK PROPERLY AND STOP LAGGING BEHIND.

CAP-
TAIN_
CAP-
TAIN_

UUU_
UU_

SHUT UP!!

MAMI, IT'S YOUR FAULT SHE'S DEAD SO STOP CRYING ALREADY.

SFX: TCH

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SO, ORIBE, WHICH WAY IS IT?

WELL THEN, LET'S HURRY.

IT'S LEFT.

T... TEACHER.

.....!!

ORIBE... ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO AGAIN?

THE INSECTS W LL EASILY CATCH US.

IF WE WALK THE PAVED ROAD IN A FORMATION LIKE THIS,

YEAH, LET'S ALL LISTEN ORIBE'S IN-STRUCTIONS AND DIE.

AND AT LEAST WALK THROUGH THE MOUN-TAINS...

CAN'T WE REARRANGE THE FORMATION WITH THE MEMBERS WE HAVE NOW

4

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR EXCUSES!

T... THAT'S !!

WHEN WE LISTENED TO WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY, MANY OF OUR SCHOOL FRIENDS LOST THEIR LIVES, DIDN'T THEY?

MISS NOZAWA ?

WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE LEAD BY THE TEACHER

WITHOUT LOSING A SINGLE PERSON OTHER THAN MISS NOZAWA WHO DISAPPEARED ON THE WAY.

THAT WAS THE RESULT OF YOUR RECKLESS PLAN, WASN'T IT?

.....!!

BE QUIET BECAUSE THAT STORY WOULD MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT.

SSSHH!

THE ONE EATEN BY A NEST OF TICKS.

OH...

SFX: BOP

UNLIKE THEN.

THE TEACHER WILL LEAD BY ANY MEANS.

2 Days Ago.

LET'S THINK ABOUT A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE OURSELVES UNTIL RESCUE ARRIVES.

STRANGE INSECTS HAVE MADE NESTS ON THIS ISLAND.

WELL THEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK, MISS NOZAWA?

I MEAN, THE RESCUE TEAM WOULDN'T FIND US, EITHER, RIGHT? YOU'RE OPINION WORRY'S ME, MISS MARIKA.

IS IT EVEN OKAY TO HIDE IN A PLACE WHERE THOSE INSECTS WON'T FIND US?

THEN THE RESCUE TEAM WOULDN'T BE INFORMED.

CER-TAINLY

THAT'S RIGHT.

PEOPLE WHO CRY WILL ONLY LURE THE INSECTS NEAR.

WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO STAND OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

.....

SINCE THEY'LL BE COMING IN A RESCUE PLANE, THOSE WHO CRY OUT IN A LOUD VOICE WILL BE SAVED...

I AGREE WITH MISS MARIKA.

OKAY.

OH.

OKAY.

AOYAMA, LET'S GO LOOK FOR FOOD.

LET'S FOLLOW THE SENIOR TEACHER OBEDIENTLY.

OKAY, OKAY...

.....

WHY DID YOU DO THAT, AOYAMA...

T...
THAT'S...

WHY DID YOU SIDE WITH MARIKA?

SFX: GRIN

YOU'RE LIKE A CASE FROM A SHOPLIFTING REFERENCE BOOK...

SOMEONE WHO BE'S SILENT.

.....

EEK

SFX: TREMBLE

SFX: GRAB

SFX: WHAP

AH_

IF IT'S TRUE ABOUT YOU WANTING TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL

THEN I WILL EXEMPT YOU AS THE ART CLUB'S NUDE SKETCH MODEL, BUT...

I SAID TAKE IT OFF!

THIS ISN'T THE ART CLUB.

YOU'RE SO LEWD. CAN'T YOU TAKE IT OFF IF THERE'S NOT AN AUDIENCE?

.....

HMPH... YOU CAN NEVER SEPARATE YOUR BODY FROM MINE, UNDERSTAND?

...PLEASE, DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.

HOW CUTE.

AAAH
...

SFX: GROPE

SFX: SHAKE

WHY IS SUCH A VOLUPTUOUS BODY WAS HIDING UNDER THE UNIFORM OF AN HONOR STUDENT...

SFX: BAM

SFX: SLIPPERY

HUH ...?

GYA GYA GYA

HAA

HAA

MISS MARIKA?

SFX: WHISH

SFX: ZOOM

TEACHER! I WON'T SAY ANY-THING.

YES, TEACHER!

Y...

IS THAT CLEAR?

MISS NOZAWA WAS ATTACKED BY AN INSECT AND DISAP-PEARED...

THOUGH WE WON'T BE ATTACKED BY INSECTS WHILE I'M ALIVE...

THIS IS SOCIETY!

YOU MADE A MISTAKE. WHEN YOU WERE LEADER, PEOPLE LOST HER LIVES.

SFX: HMPH

IF THE TEACHER DIDN'T SAVE ME, I WOULD HAVE BEEN HER SLAVE.

HEY, STOP IT!

SAY'S THE GUY WHO RAN TOWARD THOSE WASPS AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

IF WE LISTEN TO WHAT BUG G RL HAS TO SAY, THEN PERHAPS WE'LL BE SAFE.

AND THEN NONE OF US WOULD BE HERE RIGHT NOW, MYSELF INCLUDED !!

SURELY WE'VE LOST MANY FRIENDS,

BUT IF WE DIDN'T HAVE MUTSUMI, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT!

SFX: SLAP

IF I HAD NEVER SPOKEN, THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE QUARRELLING R GHT NOW.

STOP IT!

IF YOU DO, THEN WILL YOU LEAD AND INFORM US ALL OF DANGER?

ORIBE, DO YOU WANT TO BECOME LEADER THAT MUCH?

!!

IS TH S HOW LOW YOUR LEADERSH P IS, CLASS REP?

WHAT GOOD IS IT TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? YOU'RE THE TEACHER WHO ABANDONED ME AND THE CAPTAIN!!

ALL OF YOU CAN FOLLOW.

BECAUSE I'LL WALK FIRST.

CHITOSE'S FINE.

SFX: WHIRL

YOU CATCH ON QUICKLY, DON'T YOU?

AS EXPECTED, ORIBE.

WILL IT BE THE USUAL FORMATION ?

SO YOU'RE DONE TALKING ?

PHEW !!

THAT'S RIGHT... CARRY ALL OUR BAGGAGE, TOO, OKAY?

SFX: SHUD THUMP

◆*CAN SHE BRING IT TO THEIR DESTINATION SAFELY!?*

CHAPTER 12: CAPTURED - PART 2

THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
LEAVE THE BAGG-AGE.
IF HER STORY IS COHERENT, THEN LET US MOVE.
TCH...
IS THAT A GOOD THING? WE'RE MOVING AHEAD OF THEM ON THE PAVED ROAD, YOU KNOW!?

2

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: WHOOM WHOOM

SFX· WHOOM
WHOOM WHOOM

SFX· BATTLE BATTLE

SFX· WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM

4

SFX· WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM

SFX·
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM

IT'LL BE JUST UNTIL WE CAN'T HEAR IT BUZZING --

LOWER YOUR VOICE MORE.

PLENTY OF TIME HAS PASSED.

DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE US SIT LIKE THIS FOREVER?

SFX: WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM

.....

WHAT ON EARTH HAS IT CAPTURED?

THAT'S NOT A HUMAN...

SFX: WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM WHOOM

30 Minutes Later.

KAA

KAA

5

WE'LL BE FINE! BECAUSE WE CAN ALREADY SEE OUR DES-TINATION.

KAA

BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED AT THE SAFETY ZONE, HAVE WE?

KAA

I DO APPRECIATE THAT YOU HAVE A HIGH AVOIDANCE ABILITY FROM THE INSECTS.

KAA

I DON'T FEEL THE PRESENCE OF ANIMALS LIKE THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE FACILITY WHERE THE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS WAS.

HEY, STOP DAWDLING.

ARE THERE OTHER PREDATORS THAN THE AMMOPHILA SABULOSA?

WERE THEY ALL HUNTED BY THE AMMOPHILA SABULOSA?

NO. WHEN WE ENCOUNTERED THE AMMOPHILA SABULOSA, I NEVER HAD A FEELING LIKE THAT

EVERYONE, PLEASE HIDE BEHIND THE TREES.

I CAN'T DO IT

IF WE CLIMB THE STAIRS, WILL WE BE AT THE SAFETY ZONE?

MY LEGS HURT, SO LET'S TAKE A BREAK NOW.

SFX: CRACK

SFX: SST

SFX: THRUST

ドオ!

!!!

GAA AAH !!!

GRRK!

MINO WA!!

TAKE THIS !!

GU HA !!

FLUFFY
FLUFFY

SFX:
FLUFFY
FLUFFY
FLUFFY

SFX: SHHH SHHH

THAT'S...

WHERE DID IT COME FROM !?

AN ATYPUS KARS-CHI!?

Atypus Karschi
Phylum: Arthropoda
Suborder: Chelicerata
Class: Arachnida, Order: Araneae
Family: Atypidae, Genus: Atypus
Unidentified Subspecies
A rare kind that can make a bag-like nest underground.

SFX: TREMBLE

ビクッ

PLEASE, DON'T MOVE OR RAISE YOUR VOICE!

KYAAA

!!

I MUST HAVE OVER-LOOKED IT.

IT COMPLETELY ASSIMILATES ITSELF INTO THE SCENERY BY ATTACHING SAND AND DUST TO ITS NEST ALLOWING IT TO GROW BELOW GROUND.

THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO KARSCHI'S NEST ENTRANCE.

I ONLY SEE 5 ATYPUS KARSCHI NESTS FROM HERE.

THIS IS BAD...

SO WE HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND AS WE STEP BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT SENSES ITS PREY THROUGH SOUNDS THAT RUNS THROUGH THE GROUND.

OUR ENEMY IS THE ATYPUS KARSCHI —

SFX: TWITCH TWITCH

THERE ARE 5 ATYPUS KARSCHI NESTS.

LET'S LEAVE BEFORE THEY COME UP FROM THE GROUND

MINOWA'S ALREADY GONE.

IT'S DIGESTIVE JUICE HAS ALREADY BEEN INJECTED INTO HIS BODY.

WHAT ABOUT MINOWA !?

HEY, BUG GIRL.

SFX: TIP TOE

It can lift a jumbo jet if it has a thickness of 1 centi-meter.

Spider Silk.

AND WE DON'T HAVE THE MEANS TO CUT IT.

SPIDER SILK IS STRONG.

WE'RE SAFE. YOU'RE LYING.

!?

BUT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO BURN.

SINCE THREAD IS PROTEIN, IT IS WEAK AGAINST FIRE.

YOU MEAN IF WE GET CAUGHT, THAT'S THE END?

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE SAFETY ZONE...

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.

PLEASE STOP.

TEACHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SFX: WOBBLE WOBBLE

SFX: WOBBLE WOBBLE

DON'T!

TORCH-ED!

IF I CAN CUT THROUGH, THEN...

IF I DON'T MAKE A SOUND...

!?

SFX:
SLASH
SPLASH

EE!

EE
EE
EE
EE
EK!

HEE
EEE
ELP!

FOR-
GIVE
ME!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!!

YOU'LL GET CAUGHT, TOO!

TEACH-ER!!

SFX: THUD

HEE EEE EEE EEE ELP !!!

SFX: WHIP WHIP WHIP

.....

UM OK

EEK!

TEACH-ER!!

WHY DIDN'T IT ATTACK ONLY HER HEAD?

THAT'S FUNNY...

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE... SO IF WE WANT TO ESCAPE, IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

THE REST MUST HAVE BEEN HUNTED BY THE AMMOPHILA SABU-LOSA.

I SEE!

FOR-GIVE ME

!?

STOP STRUG-GLING!! IT'LL DO SOME-THING!

SFX: SST, SHOVE

!!

ORIBE! SAVE THE TEACH-ER!

SFX: THUD THUD THUD THUD

MUT-
SHIMI
!!!

SFX:
STRIKE

EVERY-ONE, RUN!!!

HAHAHAH

MUTSUMI!!!!

WE'LL COME BACK!!!

WE'LL COME BACK TO SAVE YOU!!

◆ MUTSUMI HAS BEEN CAUGHT BY THE KYPTUS KARSCHI!!

あとがき

藤見泰高
YASUTAKA FUJIMI

こんにちは! 虫の季節まっただ中にコミックを出して頂けて最高に嬉しい藤見泰高ですっ!!

この度は、巨蟲列島3巻をお買い上げ下さり誠にありがとうございます! 作画のREDICE先生、担当編集さん、そして応援して下さる皆さんのおかげで無事3巻を出して頂きましたっ！これからも末永く応援よろしくお願いいたします!!

巨蟲列島を楽しく読んで貰うための小話(その3)

今回は虫の能力について、書かせていただきたいと思います。

昆虫について、何らかの興味を持たれている方なら一度は聞いたことがあると思うのですが、昔から"クマバチはあの形状では空を飛ぶことが出来ない"と、言われ続けてきました。それは人が考える、空を飛ぶための科学"航空力学"では、クマバチの体に対して羽根が小さすぎるとか、クマバチは"飛べると信じたから飛べる"とか、マジで学者さん達が討論し合った時代がありました。現実のクマバチは、自由に空を飛ぶのに人が考え出した科学では飛べないことになっている。ものすごい矛盾です……。

しかし、最近の研究結果でレイノルズ数という法則が発見され、やっと飛ぶ秘密が解明できたそうです! 簡単に言うと人とか鳥が感じる空気の粘度より、小さな昆虫が感じる空気の粘度の方が高くて空気の中を泳いでいる感じらしいのです。

ですが、世の中にはスズメよりも大きく重い昆虫…アクティオンゾウカブトムシという巨大甲虫が存在します。航空力学的には昔、クマバチが飛べないと言われていたのですから、当然アクティオンも飛べないはずなのですが非常によく飛びます!!(笑) 飛び方は、決して上手だとは言えませんが僕も何度も見て、こっちに向かってくる時には恐怖を感じるほどです。でも、よく考えて下さい…アクティオンは小鳥よりも大きく重いのです! 小さな昆虫が感じる空気の粘度の高さでは説明がつきません。

ですが、彼らは飛んでいます!! 航空力学でいう、板の上下で起きる空気速度の差など関係なく飛んでいるのですっ!!

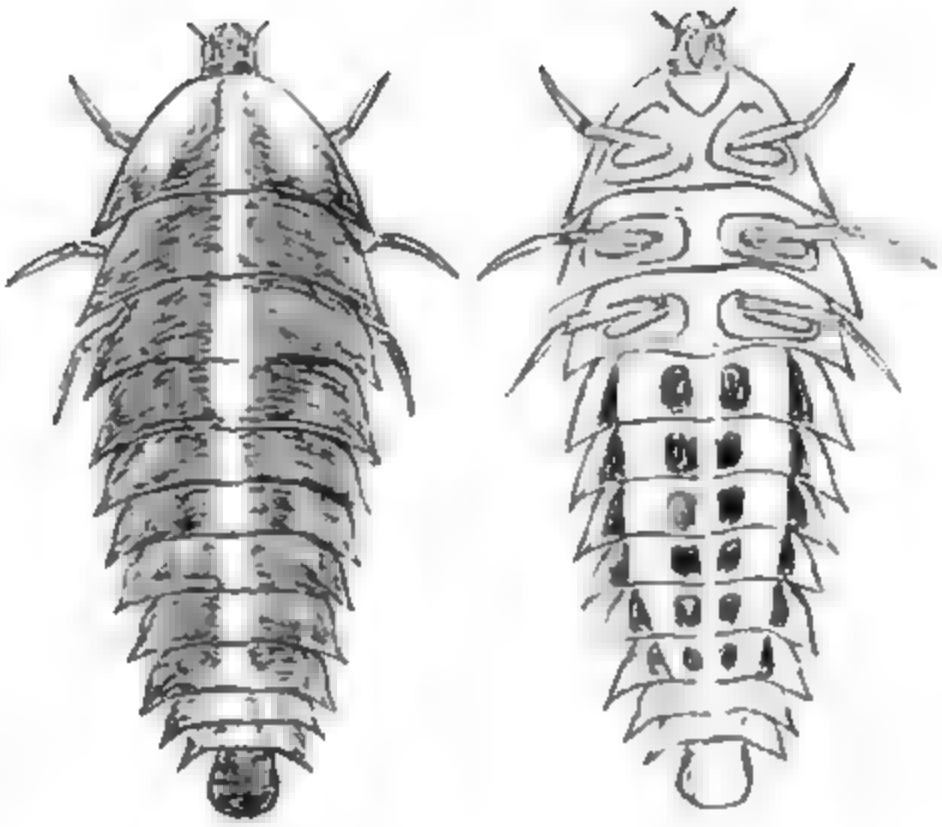
この世で、一番最初に飛んだのは昆虫! 最初に紙を作ったのも昆虫! 最初に接着剤を作ったのも昆虫!! 布を作ったのも、農耕を始めたのも、家畜を飼育したのも最初は昆虫(蟲)なんです!!!

昆虫は研究が進んでいないだけで、あらゆる可能性を秘めています。

ホタルの生態

巨蟲列島では 一見、人を襲いそうにない蟲達が人に牙をむいてきます。

特に3巻に登場するホタルは小さく可憐で、とても人間を襲うようには見えません。そして、ホタルは清流でエサが豊富な場所でしか生きていくことができず、人間が汚してしまった自然環境で急速に姿を消し、限られた場所でしか見るコトができなくなりました。現在では人間が保護・繁殖させることで、季節になればキレイな光を放ちます。その夜空を舞っている様子はニュースでも流れ、わざわざ遠くの繁殖地まで、淡い光を見るために人々が集まってくるほどです。しかし…その可憐で繊細だと思われている昆虫こそ名前は知られていますが、実態を知る人は、ほとんど居ません!!



今回、陸生のヒメボタルを参考に巨大化させてみました。ホタルの成虫は柔らかい上羽根をしていますが、カブトムシなどと同じ甲虫の仲間です。水生のゲンジボタルやヘイケボタルの幼虫は、やはり成虫と同じく柔らかい箇所が多いため、見た目から鎧のような装甲をイメージさせるヒメボタルの幼虫を凶悪にアレンジ!

ホタルは成虫になると、水分以外を摂取することができず、10日前後で死んでしまいます。しかも、お尻を発光させているので他の昆虫よりもカロリーを消費するため幼虫時代に多くの栄養を摂取する必要があるのです。

巨蟲列島では、この生態をふまえて、成虫時には何の武器もなく栄養も取れないホタルは、他の生物の格好のエサとなると推測し、次世代へ命を繋ぐためカゲロウ(川蟲)のように 一斉に成虫が羽化し生存率を高める様にパターンを変化させてみました。

そこで一斉に成虫が羽化するには、幼虫の生存率を高めなければなりません。

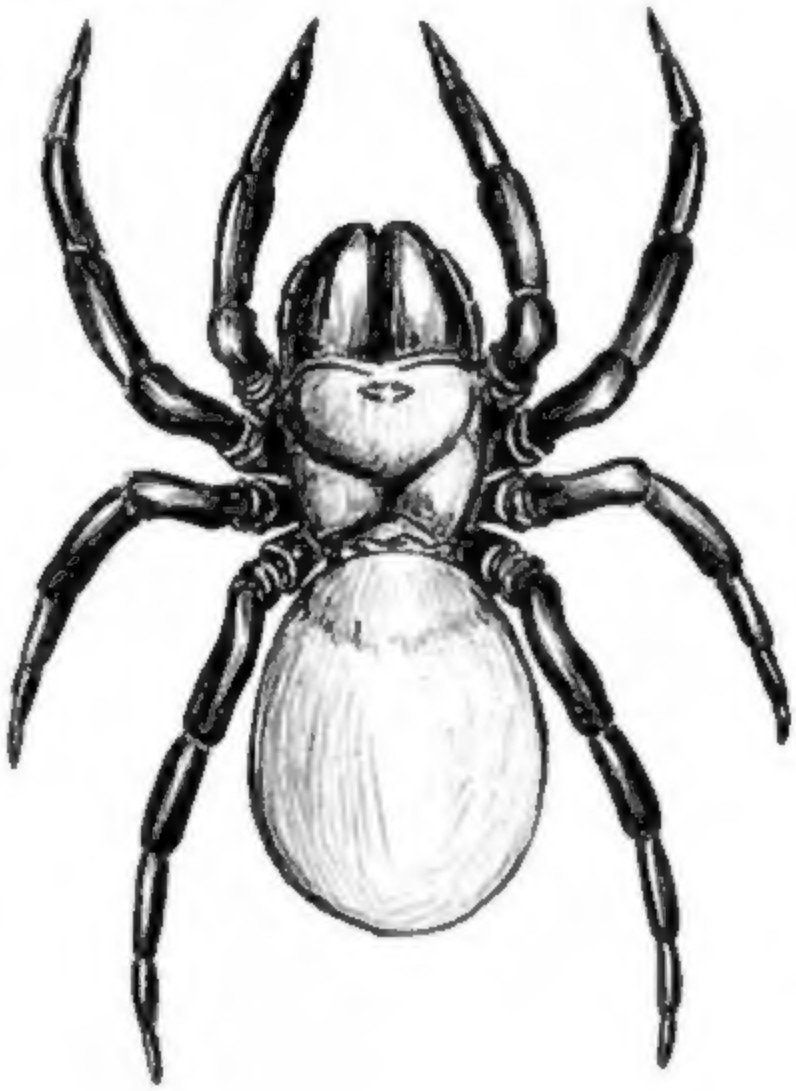
①幼虫のコミュニケーション
幼虫同士での光コミュニケーション連携を強化し、少ないであろうエサを効率よく集団で狩るように変化させました（アリやハチと同様の狩りのしかたです）。

②幼虫の武器と鎧
ホタル幼虫の外骨格装甲を強化し、鳥など他の捕食者から身を護るため装甲の一部を鋭利な刃物に変化させました（同様の武器をカルコソマ属のカブトムシなどが持っています）。

これらの変化（あえて進化とは言いません）は、原作者が現実に存在する他の昆虫達の生き残りの手段を想像でミックスしたモノです。巨蟲列島に出てくる巨大昆虫には全て僕なりの設定があります。何となく巨大昆虫が出てきてるのではなく、設定があるんだと頭の片隅にでも留めて置いて頂けると嬉しいです!!

ジグモ（前編）

地中に、自らが編んだ糸で巣を作る珍しい種類のクモです。都会でも、雨がかからない道路の植え込みや家の壁などに巣を作っていますので、目をこらして探せば簡単に見つかります。



人間との対比

ただ、壁や木と同じ色にしたりホコリなどを付けて巣を擬態させていることがあるので、最初の一つを見つけるまでは苦労するかもしれません。

3巻は、睦美がジグモに捕獲されたところまでなので詳しい設定などは次巻で書かせていただきたいと思います!!

巨蟲列島では現在、研究で判明している実例を踏まえて、昆虫が巨大化できないリミッターを作者なりの解釈で解き放っております。睦美はまだリミッターの存在に気がついていません。睦美がリミッターの存在に気がついた時、物語は大きく動いていきます!!

最後まで、おつきあい下さりありがとうございました!!

Champion RED Comics
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コミックス

巨蟲列島(きょちゅうれっとう)3

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